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REF: MOSCOW 1067

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS SEES US DISMAY AT ABM DECISION.

1. PRAVDA MARCH 16 PRINTED BRIEF TASS DESPATCH EMPHASIZING "WORRIES IN VARIOUS US CIRCLES" ABOUT PRESIDENT'S DECISION PROCEED ABM PROGRAM. ARTICLE QUOTED CRITICAL STATEMENTS OF SENATORS KENNEDY, WILLIAMS, AND GORE AS WELL AS NY TIMES EDITORIAL. ALSO REPORTED TELEGRAM SENT BY 100 MEMBERS OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WHICH ALLEGEDLY SAID DECISION "COULD ONLY CAUSE NEW AND CATASTROPHIC ROUND IN ARMS RACE." PRAVDA SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW MADE NO MENTION OF SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH AUTHOR DID DEVOTE SOME ATTENTION TO "GUNS VS. BUTTER" QUESTION IN CONTEXT US SOCIAL ILLS. PRAVDA OF MARCH 17, ONLY MORNING PAPER

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PUBLISHED, IGNORES TOPIC.

2. COMMENT: SOVIETS MAY BE RELUCTANT LAUNCH PROPAGANDA ATTACK ON PRESIDENT'S DECISION FOR FEAR THAT IT MIGHT JEOPARDIZE PROSPECTS FOR US-SOVIET MISSILE TALKS. MEANWHILE, THEY APPEAR TO CONSIDER THAT THEIR INTERESTS IN ISSUE ARE SERVED BY PRINTING CRITICAL COMMENTS FROM US POLITICAL CIRCLES ON PRESIDENT'S DECISION. SWANK

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